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REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 15 were rejected. Claims 3-5, 9-14 and 16-19 were indicated to be allowable. Claims 1, 7 and 15 are currently amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Fieschi. In particular, the Office equates the switching label and table discussed at col. 4, lines 30-42 with the claimed mirrored control plane information. The cited passage teaches how label information associated with flows through a node are stored by that node. This is somewhat similar to the Label Information Database ("LID") (48 Fig. 4) described in the present application. In contrast, use of the term "mirror" in claim 1 implies that the control plane information is associated with the network node rather than the claimed device. Nevertheless, claims 1, 7 and 15 have been amended to more particularly recite that the mirrored control plane information is associated with the network node, i.e., a device other than the mirroring device. Support for the claim amendments is in the specification at page 2, lines 19-21, and descriptions of the Label Information Mirrors ("LIMs") (32, 34, 36 Fig. 1, and 52 Fig. 4). Claims 1, 7 and 15 are allowable because Fieschi fails to teach mirroring of connectivity information associated with another device. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 7 and 15 is therefore requested. Claims 2, 6 and 8 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention and are also allowable for the reasons stated above. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 6 and 8 is therefore also requested.

The Office Action Summary indicates that there is an objection to the Specification. Since there does not appear to be any objection to the specification in the body of the OA, and since

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Applicant does not know of any reason for an objection, Applicant assumes that the indication is a clerical error.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

January 25, 2005

Date

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